

# MIOCR MATTERS

A quarterly update on the **Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Grant Program**



Corrections Standards Authority

JANUARY-MARCH 2007

## Legislature Re-establishes MIOCR Program. . .

After a two-year hiatus, the MIOCR grant program is back. Through the tireless efforts of the California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA), the Legislature supported the Governor's proposal to fund grants aimed at assisting counties in reducing recidivism among mentally ill offenders. The legislation re-establishing the MIOCR program provided nearly \$45 million for grants and expanded this effort to include juvenile offenders with mental illness (Chapter 48, Statutes of 2006).

## CSA Awards 44 MIOCR Grants...

In December 2006, following a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process, the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) board approved the funding recommendations developed by 12 subject matter experts who evaluated and ranked a total of 75 proposals requesting nearly twice the amount of available funds. The 18-month grants for the 44 successful applicants began on January 1, 2007.

### MIOCR Grant Awards (in ranked order)

ADULT PROPOSALS	
COUNTY	GRANT
Marin	\$997,214
Santa Clara	\$1,500,000
San Francisco	\$995,128
San Bernardino	\$1,500,000
Monterey	\$1,000,000
Los Angeles	\$1,494,575
El Dorado	\$700,000
Humboldt	\$700,000
Nevada	\$700,000
Yolo	\$700,000
Butte	\$999,995
San Mateo	\$902,589
Orange	\$1,500,000
Ventura	\$1,000,000
Madera	\$699,938
Stanislaus	\$916,740
Trinity	\$534,713
Tuolumne	\$689,851
Contra Costa	\$1,500,000
Santa Cruz	\$999,916
San Diego	\$1,497,945
Sacramento	\$766,896
<b>Total Awards</b>	<b>\$22,295,500</b>

JUVENILE PROPOSALS	
COUNTY	GRANT
Marin	\$810,539
Santa Cruz	\$999,971
Santa Clara	\$1,500,000
San Diego	\$1,424,038
San Joaquin	\$990,551
Humboldt	\$697,285
Ventura	\$1,000,000
Solano	\$597,411
Merced	\$982,726
Sacramento	\$1,500,000
Fresno	\$997,770
Yolo (Woodland)	\$700,000
LA (ICM)	\$1,028,000
San Bernardino	\$1,470,000
Nevada	\$661,463
LA (ECTP)	\$1,485,000
Orange	\$1,499,378
Sierra	\$472,443
Sonoma	\$819,916
Monterey	\$1,000,000
Contra Costa	\$1,370,407
Yolo (W. Sac)	\$288,602
<b>Total Awards</b>	<b>\$22,295,500</b>

## FMHAC Honors Sheriffs

For the first time in its history, the Forensic Mental Health Association of California (FMHAC) has awarded the association's highest honor to an organization rather than an individual. The 2007 William T. Rossiter Award, which honors exceptional contributions to the field of forensic mental health, was presented to the California State Sheriffs' Association on March 14 at the annual FMHAC Conference in Seaside. CSSA received this award for its success, back in 1998 and again in 2006, in securing legislative support for the MIOCR grants.

## The MIOCR Projects

As required by the RFP, all of the projects are anchored in an evidence-based treatment model.

On the adult side, most of the counties designed a program that is based in the Assertive Community Treatment model. In addition, over half of the projects involve the creation or expansion of a Mental Health Court. On the juvenile side, the majority of projects are based in an intensive family therapy model such as Functional Family Therapy or Multi-Systemic Therapy, and nearly a third of the projects involve a Mental Health Court.

A brief description of each project is available on the CSA's web site.

## Previous MIOCR Findings

The statewide evaluation of the 30 MIOCR demonstration grants that ended in June 2004 found that the enhanced treatment and support services provided to adult mentally ill offenders through the program produced positive results in several critical areas. For example, MIOCR participants were booked less often than a comparison group receiving treatment as usual (TAU) and, when the MIOCR participants did serve time in jail, they spent fewer days than the TAU group. MIOCR participants also showed significantly more improvement in functioning (as measured by Global Assessment of Functioning scores) than the TAU group. In addition, more MIOCR participants had housing, and more were economically self-sufficient.

This evaluation also found that outcomes were consistently superior for participants 30 years of age and older and particularly so for those with more recent and more serious encounters with the criminal justice system. In addition, the statewide analysis found a positive correlation between criminal justice outcomes and the extent of a project's fidelity to the Assertive Community Treatment model.

The final evaluation report on the previous MIOCR program is available on the CSA's web site.

## Measuring the Impact...

Although the enabling legislation for the new MIOCR grants does not require a program evaluation, the CSA is committed to assessing the overall effectiveness of the projects on reducing recidivism among adult and juvenile offenders with mental illness. Toward this end, CSA staff implemented a multi-step, inclusive process to help ensure the identification of appropriate, meaningful data that can be collected relatively easily by grantees. That process included reviewing past research, soliciting input from subject matter experts throughout the state and nation, and presenting draft data variables and definitions to grantees for discussion and feedback.

As a result of this process, the CSA is requiring grantees to collect and report data, on a monthly basis, that will enable staff to describe the populations served by the projects and to assess their impact through "before and after" comparisons of participants on outcome variables related to recidivism (e.g., bookings and petitions filed, days in jail/juvenile hall) and client functioning (e.g., employment, housing status, school attendance). The data dictionaries and reporting forms for both the juvenile and adult projects are available on the CSA's web site. Staff will augment quantitative data analyses with case studies and other pertinent information grantees include in semi-annual progress reports to the CSA and share findings with state legislators, local government officials, and other interested parties through this quarterly bulletin and upon request.

## Assistance with Project Training...

To assist in addressing some of the staff training needs identified by the MIOCR grantees in their project proposals, the Department of Mental Health is in the process of contracting with the California Institute for Mental Health (CIMH) to provide "introductory training" on evidence-based practices as well as training on such topics as crisis intervention, interagency partnerships and cultural competency. CSA staff has been told that this training project will be funded through Mental Health Services Act funds for up to three years and that training through CIMH could take place as early as May.

## Future Issues...

Once the MIOCR projects get up and running, which typically takes four to six months, this quarterly update will focus on the counties participating in this program...their struggles and successes in helping offenders with mental illness avoid further involvement in the justice system through appropriate treatment and support services...and data collected by the CSA to assess the overall effectiveness of the program.

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